

**Introduced by Senator Leno
(Coauthor: Senator Kehoe)**

August 23, 2010

Senate Resolution No. 51—Relative to sexual orientation discrimination.

1 WHEREAS, Some United States-based religious leaders have
2 been fomenting fear and discrimination against the minority
3 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in
4 Uganda; and

5 WHEREAS, These same religious leaders have supported
6 policies and programs that have prevented the LGBT community
7 from having access to lifesaving HIV/AIDS information and
8 services; and

9 WHEREAS, The links between some United States-based
10 religious groups and the antigay bill, known as the Bahati Private
11 Member's Bill, pending before the Ugandan parliament have been
12 well documented; and

13 WHEREAS, United States-funded HIV policy and programs
14 discriminate against LGBT Ugandans who are excluded from the
15 Ugandan government's HIV strategy, often through faith-based
16 organizations in Uganda; and

17 WHEREAS, There is a growing movement, supported and
18 funded by some United States-based religious groups, to further
19 criminalize homosexuality globally and make it an offense to
20 provide services and support to LGBT people, their families, and
21 supporters; and

22 WHEREAS, The Right Reverend Christopher Senyonjo, the
23 retired Anglican Bishop of West Buganda, has been touring
24 California, the United States, and Europe to educate and bring

1 attention to the draconian impact of a recent wave of
2 religious-based homophobia in Uganda; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
4 deplores and condemns all acts of violence, in both word and in
5 action, that use the government as an instrument of discrimination,
6 persecution, and legislating against the LGBT community and its
7 supporters; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Senate calls upon all faith-based organizations
9 in California to work for equal rights in the world and not to abuse
10 their federal Section 501(c)(3) charitable status to engage in undue
11 lobbying at the United Nations or to create policies in other
12 countries that may discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation
13 or gender identity; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Senate calls upon the United States
15 Department of State to increase efforts to encourage the
16 decriminalization of homosexuality in every country and to use
17 all means possible to increase the number of countries supporting
18 decriminalization, including, but not limited to, the United Nations,
19 trade and diplomatic relationships, and the implementation of
20 international treaties and declarations on human rights; and be it
21 further

22 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages a more careful review of
23 all United States funding and resources given to faith-based
24 organizations in foreign countries, ensuring that they provide
25 services to women, minorities, and LGBT people relating to health,
26 education, and other services that promote and respect human
27 rights treaties and values; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Senate calls upon the United States
29 Department of State to censure American citizens and organizations
30 who contravene American foreign policy by demonstrated
31 exportation of fear and misinformation to other countries that cause
32 demonstrated hardship, persecution, or violation of human rights
33 for minority populations; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Senate commends the work and ministry of
35 Right Reverend Christopher Senyonjo in his attempts to create an
36 inclusive church and society in Uganda that is free from
37 discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
38 and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
40 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United

- 1 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
- 2 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
- 3 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
- 4 United States Secretary of State.

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